

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Washington

28 May 1951

Dear General Smith:

The Department of State believes that it is desirable to make certain arrangements for the establishment of communications facilities for use in connection with evacuation of the Northern and Western European area at the time of a possible emergency. Requests from the field indicate that early consideration must be given to the question of furnishing radio transmitting and receiving equipment, together with operating personnel, to the Foreign Service establishments at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It will be necessary for stations at these posts to have signal plans for communication with a base station convenient to the [REDACTED] and it appears that all such facilities will have to be operated [REDACTED] transmissions being limited, except in situations of actual emergency, to the absolute minimum necessary to the assurance of reliability when required.

As you know, the Communications Division of the Department has been participating with communications officials of your Agency in a joint study of possible consolidation of emergency communications programs. I understand that informal agreement has been reached on the desirability of cooperation in a European emergency communications system of the kind contemplated, and it is understood that some facilities have already been made available by your Agency at a few of the locations mentioned above. These facilities are only available on an informal basis, however, and without the full knowledge of the scope and potentialities of the network on the part of the missions and the liaison group which are actively concerned with evacuation plans. I would appreciate an expression of your view as to the extent to which the Central Intelligence Agency is prepared to participate further in a program of this kind.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ W. Park Armstrong, Jr.  
W. Park Armstrong, Jr.

Lieutenant General Walter B. Smith,  
Director of Central Intelligence,  
Washington, D.C.

State Dept. review completed